The Middlebury Campus

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BIDEN WINS PRESIDENCY

BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Students celebrate after the 2020 presidential election is called for Joe Biden on the morning of Satuday, Nov. 7.

BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

SOPHIA MCDERMOTT-HUGHES/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Students and local residents held signs near the edge of the green facing South Pleasant Street amid honks and waves from passing drivers. Rallies carried on for the three days following the Presidential election, advocating that every vote should be counted.

Middlebury residents, students mobilize in support of counting every vote

By ABIGAIL CHANG
News Editor

Students and community members gathered on the Town Green, holding signs and listening attentively to speakers, united by one central message: every vote that was cast must be counted.

Middlebury students joined local residents and community members on Nov. 4 at the Protect the Vote Rally, carrying hand-painted banners that read "Every Vote Counts" and "Our Voices Count." Roughly 200 participants gathered for one of several Protect the Results rallies around the country advocating for upholding the results of the presidential election.

The event was the brainchild of local residents Fran Putnam and Bethany Barry, who began planning it about seven weeks ago. The two friends have organized together in the past and, as Putnam put it, "go all the way back to the Women's March in 2017." Putnam was inspired by a personal message from activist George Lakey, who encouraged local action to prevent a compromised election. Following Lakey's suggestion, Putnam and Barry formed an affinity group composed of around 20 people, including both community members and Middlebury students.

Putnam, who frequents college Sunday Night Environmental Group (SNEG) meetings, reached out to students and assembled a group of student organizers for the event. This included Divya Gudur '21, who relayed information about safety and Covid-19 protocol to student participants gathered on McCullough lawn on Nov. 4 prior to proceeding into town.

With Covid-19 cases on the rise, the organizers required that all attendees wear face masks and maintain physical distance. They also discouraged chanting and asked students to walk from campus to the green in groups of ten or fewer.

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Students of color face increased fear as presidential election comes to a head

By SOPHIA MCDERMOTT-HUGHES
Senior News Writer

As the nation waited on edge to hear the results of the 2020 presidential election, many of Middlebury's students of color feared that tensions could erupt into racialized violence on campus and in town.

Students worried that the college, which hosts a much higher concentration of people of color than the surrounding area, would provide an easy target for racial violence and hate speech. Many students of color decided to stay on campus, travel in groups, avoid the main roads and town and remain hyper-vigilant for the duration of election week and beyond.

Jasmin Animas-Tapia '21 made one last trip into town to stock up on groceries on Nov. 1. She worries that tensions will continue to mount over the coming weeks instead of dying down. Unless absolutely necessary, she does not plan on returning to town before she leaves for the end of the semester.

As a Black woman, Kaila Thomas '21 believes she is an easier target for racial violence than male students of color. For the duration of election week, Thomas scarcely left her college housing except to attend in-person classes and eat in the dining hall. Friends escorted her to classes and sometimes brought her meals so she wouldn't have to leave her refuge.

Many students of color did not fear outright physical violence in Vermont but worried that they might be verbally assaulted by passing cars or community members. The threat of these interactions undermines a sense of "emotional safety" for students of color, according to David Vargas '22.5.

Vargas defined emotional safety as the feeling that he is wanted or belongs here, something he has felt infrequently during his time at Middlebury. Similarly, Animas-Tapia thinks about it as "feeling comfortable enough in spaces to be open and honest" about who she is.

None of these feelings and fears were new or unique to this elec-

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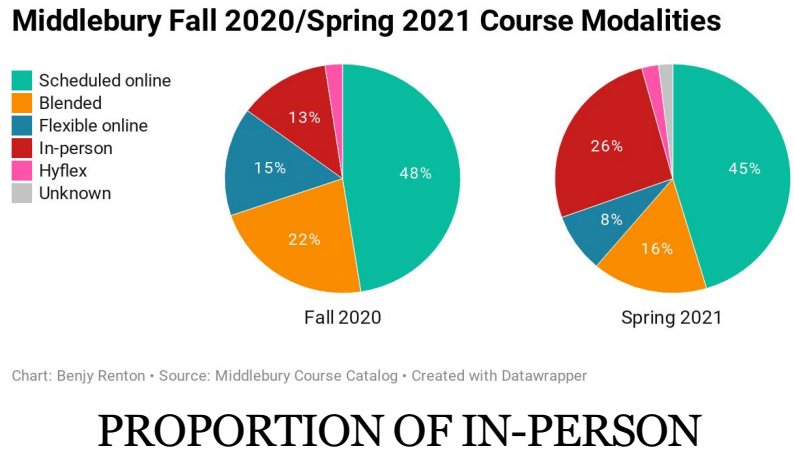

Chart: Benjy Renton • Source: Middlebury Course Catalog • Created with Datawrapper

PROPORTION OF IN-PERSON CLASSES TO DOUBLE THIS SPRING

By BENJY RENTON
Digital Editor

In preparation for the spring semester, Middlebury has released a breakdown of its course modalities in a Nov. 3 email from Dean of Curriculum Suzanne Gurland.

Based on a Campus analysis of the document outlining initial teaching plans for the semester, 241 of the 518 courses — or 48% — will be offered completely in either "scheduled online" or "flexible online" modalities, with no in-person components at all. Meanwhile, 67% of all classes will be taught online in some capacity.

Compared to this fall semester, the proportion of classes that will be completely in-person has more than doubled — 13% of courses were completely in-person this fall, compared to the projected 26% in the spring. The proportion of classes in-person increased due

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LOCAL

Vermont breaks single-day Covid-19 record, adopts mandatory quarantine

By FLORENCE WU
Staff Writer

With 47 cases, Vermont saw a record high of single-day cases since April. Yesterday, Gov. Phil Scott implemented a mandatory quarantine order for anyone returning or traveling to the state. This is a response to a 34% increase in Covid-19 cases in the northeast since last week, according to government data. Overall, cases rose by 46% this week and hospitalizations are also increasing.

"I want to be very clear that much of our case growth is tied to two factors: Vermonters traveling

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LOCAL

Incumbents in Vermont government largely prevail amid historic election turnout

By JACK SUMMERSBY
Staff Writer

Elections across the state of Vermont last Tuesday largely returned incumbents to state offices as candidates and the electorate both responded to pandemic challenges. In a record-breaking election turnout, Vermont voters cast roughly 44,000 more votes this year compared to 2016.

In the presidential race, former Vice President Joe Biden carried Vermont with over 66% of the vote, 10 percentage points more than Hillary Clinton in 2016. Governor Phil Scott, a Republican, was easily re-elected over current Lieutenant Governor David Zuckerman with about 69% of the vote.

Scott is one of several Republican governors who openly refused to support President Trump's re-election and has notably said he crossed party lines to vote for now President-elect Biden, making him the only incumbent GOP governor to publicly vote for the Democratic candidate.

Democrat Molly Gray was elected Lieutenant Governor and will replace Zuckerman come January. In Congress, Democrat Peter Welch easily won re-election as Vermont's sole delegate in the U.S. House of Representatives.

There were no U.S. Senate elections in Vermont this election cycle. It is uncertain whether Patrick Leahy, who has served in office since 1975, will run in 2022. Leahy is the most senior member of the Senate by time in office.

Middlebury College student Asa Skinder'22.5 was elected High Bailiff of Washington County after becom-

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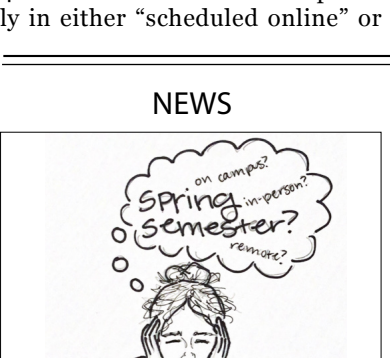
NEWS



Students weigh pros and cons of returning for spring semester
By CHARLIE KEOHANE

LOCAL

On a snowy election day, Middlebury voters turn out
By ACADIA KLEPEIS

A decade between Asia and Middlebury: The story behind Stone
By FLORENCE WU

Everyone Eats supports struggling restaurants and food-insecure households
By EMILY HOGAN

ARTS & CULTURE

Direct Your Attention: Ludovico Einaudi's most intimate concert
By OWEN MASON-HILL

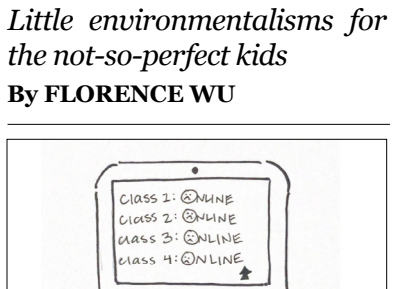
'finally': Production with an all-Asian cast spotlights issues of representation
By EDYTH MOLDOW

Continuing a five-decade tradition, pianist Gilbert Kalish returns to Middlebury on a virtual stage
By YARDENA CARMI

College Choir to celebrate songs of tolerance and decolonization
By OLIVIA MUELLER

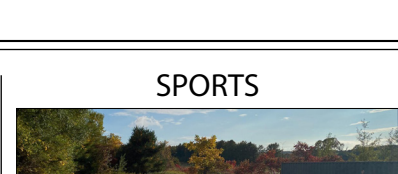
OPINION

Little environmentalisms for the not-so-perfect kids
By FLORENCE WU



Remote classes aren't the same
By EDITORIAL BOARD

SPORTS



YouPower puts new outdoor spin on fitness classes
By NIAMH CARTY

Siefer's Scoop Podcast Episode 7: Alex Stimpson '23, men's squash
By BLAISE SIEFER

Throwback Thursday: This day in 2005, Lyon spearheads comeback against Tufts
By MICHAEL SEGEL